

BACKGROUND NOTE ON EXTRA-JUDICIAL EXECUTIONS IN EAST TIMOR

Attached is a list of persons reported to AI to have been executed by Indonesian forces in East Timor in the years 1979-1981. All those listed are believed to have been executed without any prior judicial procedure. None is believed to have been killed in armed combat. AI has received reports of extra-judicial executions which occurred in the years 1975-1979, including a wave of executions that took place in Dili immediately after the Indonesian invasion in December 1975. However, AI is particularly concerned to draw attention to the executions reportedly perpetrated by Indonesian forces during the periods April-July 1979 and July-September 1981. During the first of these periods, large numbers of persons previously associated with Fretilin who had surrendered or been captured "disappeared" or were executed. (A number of those who were reported to have "disappeared" during this period are now believed to have been executed.) This policy was in clear violation of the Geneva Conventions and of the terms of the amnesty to surrendering Fretilin members offered by President Suharto. The executions reported to have occurred in July-September 1981 were perpetrated in the course of Operasi Keamanan, a military operation aimed at the final elimination of Fretilin.

Amnesty International finds it noteworthy that the waves of executions recorded on the attached list took place for the most part during periods when the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were not represented in East Timor. For the first time since the Indonesian invasion in December 1975, the ICRC resumed its activities in East Timor with a food relief program initiated in September 1979. This program was discontinued in April 1981. The ICRC was able to gain the agreement of the Indonesian Government to further programs under its direct supervision only after its mission to East Timor in February 1982.

10 May 1982

A. EXECUTED IN 1979

1. Place of Execution Unknown

Filomeno Alves, 25, Manecas Exposto and Onorio Pereira: before 1975, all three belonged to a popular music group, Os Cinco do Oriente; members of the Fretilin student organization, UNETIM; after surrendering in Maubisse in January 1979, they were taken to Dili and held in San Tai Ho Prison; shortly after their release from there in April, they were executed.

Maria Gorete Joaquim: detained in 1976 for six months for her role in the Fretilin student organization, UNETIM; in April 1979, she was taken away by Indonesian troops together with her uncle, Leopoldo Joaquim; reportedly executed, possibly in Quelicai.

Joao Bosco Sarmiento Quintao: captured in December 1977; taken to Dili where imprisoned and tortured, first in San Tai Ho, later in the Comarca; taken from prison in May/June 1979 and executed, possibly with others in Tasi Tolu, near Dili.

Sgt. Sebastiao Sarmiento: surrendered in Bobonaro in 1979; thrown from helicopter shortly after surrender.

Joao Baptista de Jesus Soares: detained for approximately six months in San Tai Ho Prison after his surrender in early 1978, he remained at liberty until April/May 1979; following re-arrest by Indonesian soldiers, he is reported to have been executed.

2. Executions in Quelicai. Baucau, During May/June

José Alcino: from Baucau; reportedly executed in Quelicai in May 1979.

Marcos Borges: from Baucau; reportedly executed in Quelicai in May 1979.

Januário Braga: from Quelicai; reportedly executed there in May 1979.

Sina Caca: from Venasse; reportedly executed in Quelicai during the period May/June 1979.

Gaspar Correia: from Seical; reportedly executed in May 1979 in Quelicai.

Norberto Correia: from Seical; two of his sons were alleged to be fighting with Fretilin forces at the time of his arrest in May 1979; he was taken to Quelicai, interrogated and subsequently executed there in June 1979.

Petro da Costa: from Baucau; reported to have had in his possession a Fretilin flag and map of East Timor, indicating the areas of the territory under Fretilin control, although it is alleged he was not a member of Fretilin; reportedly ejected from a helicopter in May 1979 on a journey between Baucau and Waiaca.

Afonso Cristovao: from Lospalos; he was captured at Mount Matebian in November 1978, following which he was detained in Baucau until May 1979, when he was reportedly executed at Quelicai.

Inácio da Fonseca: on surrendering in Ossu, Baucau district, with his wife in early 1979, he was taken by helicopter to Quelicai in April 1979 and reportedly executed.

Joaquim Fraga: from Quelicai; reportedly executed there in May 1979.

Aquillino Freitas: a teacher in Buruma, Baucau district; reportedly executed in Quelicai in May 1979.

Francisco Freitas: from Buibau; reportedly executed in Quelicai in May 1979.

Januário Gaio: son of the Liurai (traditional chief) of Guruca, Quelicai district; executed in May 1979 in Quelicai.

José Gaio: brother of Januário; he had reportedly sought refuge at Baucau Mission, where Indonesian soldiers arrested him; also executed in May 1979 in Quelicai.

Paula Gaio: from Abafala, Quelicai; reportedly executed in Quelicai in May 1979.

Paulo Agapito Gama: from Laga; surrendered in February 1979 with others. In May 1979, he was reportedly executed in Quelicai with the others who had surrendered, one of whom is reported to have been Celestino Peloy, also from Laga.

Albino Gusmao: from Maluro, near Quelicai; he was captured and wounded when fighting with Fretilin forces; taken to the College of Fatumaca near Venilale, where he was held for a period; subsequently taken by the Indonesian military authorities to Quelicai, where he was executed in the May/June 1979 period.

Paulo Gusmao: from Quelicai; reportedly executed in May/June 1979.

Tadeu Laicana: about 27, surrendered with other Fretilin forces; executed in May 1979 in Quelicai.

Francisco Marques: from Fatumaca; reportedly executed in Quelicai during the period May/June 1979.

Dino Monteiro: from Ossu, Baucau district; former seminarist who surrendered and was reportedly executed in Quelicai in May 1979.

Gregorio Pereira: about 32, from Afaca, near Quelicai; alleged to have sent supplies to Fretilin forces; executed at Quelicai, May/June 1979.

Sidonio Sarmiento: about 35, former teacher at Macalaco school in Lei Soro Lui village; he was living in Baucau with his family when he was taken to Quelicai and executed in May 1979.

Candido Soares: a teacher from Quelicai; reportedly executed there in May 1979.

Jeremias Soares: from Uatu Lari; reportedly executed in Quelicai in May/June 1979.

Paulo Soares: from Quelicai; executed there in May/June 1979.

Tadeu Soares: from Quelicai; reportedly executed there in May 1979.

Domingo Torres: about 22, originally from Fatulari, Viqueque; former student at the Dare seminary and alleged to have assisted Fretilin; executed in Quelicai in approximately June 1979.

Lourenco Gaio Ximenes: from Abafala, Quelicai area; reportedly executed in May 1979.

3. Executions in Laclubar, Manatuto

Following the capture and execution of Fretilin President Nicolau Lobato in December 1978, members of his family were gathered together and executed in Laclubar, Manatuto. They included his mother, Felismina, his sister, Mariazinha, and her husband, Moises Sarmento.

4. Executions in Faturbeliu, Same

Caetano De Araujo and Tobias da Costa were executed together in Bua-Laloc, Faturbeliu.

Moises Tilman de Araujo: from Ainaro; surrendered in 1979 in Faturbeliu and disappeared.

Luis de Andrade: from Faturbeliu; surrendered between February and April 1979; killed in Soibada in April 1979.

Antonio Fernandes: 26, from Faturbeliu; executed after surrender.

Francisco Fernandes: 29, from Faturbeliu; member of Fretilin; surrendered in 1979 and taken to hospital for treatment; one month later he "disappeared"; believed executed.

Joao Abilio Fernandes: 23, from Faturbeliu.

Marcos Fernandes: 32, executed in March 1979.

Zaulino Fernandes: 24, brother of Antonio Fernandes (see above); executed after surrendering in Faturbeliu.

Jorze de Jesus: 24, executed in April 1979 after surrender.

Francisco Lopes: 22, executed after surrender.

Joaquim Magalhaes: 33, executed after surrender.

Joao Raul (also known as Joao Gentio): 27, executed after surrendering in Faturbeliu.

5. Executions in Ossu, Viqueque

Jacob Reis and Domingos Sequeira: both reportedly executed in June 1979; their bodies were found in a ditch outside the Women's College in Ossu.

Fernando Gouveia, José Martins and Daniel Monteiro: all reportedly executed in Ossu during 1979.

6. Executions in Uatulári, Viqueque

Joao Berchmans, Antonio de Costa, Joao Meneses, 45, and the wife of Adelino, the traditional village chief (name unknown). Adelino had reportedly fled fearing for his own life. His wife was arrested and executed by Koramil soldiers. It is reported that she was hanged.

7. Executions in Gari Uai, Baucau

41 persons were reported to have been summarily executed in Gari Uai around July 1979. They had surrendered to the Indonesians in November 1976 in Lospalos, after which they had reportedly collaborated with the Indonesian army. After a military engagement between Fretilin forces and the Indonesian army in November 1978 in the region of Matebian, the group was detained and accused of having betrayed the Indonesians. They are reported to have been executed by soldiers belonging to Battalion 126. Those whose names are known are:

Aleixo Amaral, Artur Amaral, Joao Branco, 30, Eduardo and Alarico Nunes Caetano, Adao Cristovao, Aleixo Cristovao, Gil Cristovao, José Cristovao, Faustino Guimaraes, Inácio, Nicolau Quintas, Leovigildo dos Santos, Vitor dos Santos, Domingos Savio and Felipe Vitor.

8. Executions in Lospalos, Lantem

Pedro Alves Cabral: following completion of carpentry course in Portugal he taught at the Technical School in Dili; killed near Laga in November 1979.

Tome Cristovao: had relatives in Fretilin, though not himself a member.

Vitor Gandara: executed with his wife.

Raul Monteiro: 25, former seminarist.

Fernando Sanches: former Liurai (traditional chief) of Fuiloro.

Pedro Sanches

Joao Andrade Sarmento: former nurse and member of the Fretilin Central Committee; surrendered in Uato-Carabau with his wife and eight children in October/November 1978; together with his family he was sent to his home town of Lospalos, where he resumed work as a nurse. In June 1979, he was summoned by Indonesian military authorities and is reported to have been executed.

Afonso and Benedito Savio: brothers; killed near Iliomar; the latter had worked in the office of the district chief (bupati) of Lantem.

B. EXECUTED IN 1980

In approximately December 1980, near Vemassee, four members of Fretilin, whose names are not known, were reportedly executed and beheaded. The heads are reported to have subsequently been put on public display in Laga, near Baucau, an area in which Fretilin had earlier enjoyed considerable support.

Luis Alves: 34, executed in Faturbeliu, Same.

C. EXECUTED IN 1981

Antonio Brites: member of Fretilin who surrendered; taken on military operation in Maubara, Northwest Timor, in July 1981, as a guide and then reportedly executed.

In September, during the Indonesian Operasi Keamanan, 300 people, including women and children, were reportedly executed in Lacluta, Viqueque, at a religious shrine, the Rock of Saint Antony, where they had taken refuge.

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